

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 244

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Motohiko Kato, Consul-General of Japan.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in honoring those official representatives who work with purpose and conviction to facilitate economic and cultural exchange between two great nations, Japan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished official is Motohiko Kato, who has rendered exemplary service as the Consul-General of Japan in Nashville since October 2012; and

WHEREAS, as Consul-General of Japan in Nashville, Motohiko Kato served as his nation's representative over five states—Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee—charged with the responsibility of strengthening U.S. and Japanese relationships; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in Nashville, Consul-General Kato worked with government, business, and community leaders toward the mutual goal of further enhancing the already strong Japan-Tennessee relationship and to further State residents' understanding of Japanese society, culture, and economics; and

WHEREAS, Consul-General Kato has spoken at numerous engagements and hosted many events to bring Japanese and American residents of Tennessee closer together, including the annual Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival as well as business and cultural seminars; and

WHEREAS, actively involving himself in the Nashville community, Motohiko Kato is a member of the Rotary Club of Nashville and the Leadership Nashville Class of 2014; he served as the Honorary Co-Chair of the Japan-America Society of Tennessee and on the board of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce's International Business Council; and

WHEREAS, a seasoned diplomat, Consul-General Motohiko Kato will leave the U.S. for his next assignment to serve as a Minister Extraordinary at the Japanese Embassy in London, England; and

WHEREAS, Consul-General Motohiko Kato played a vital role in facilitating the exchange of commerce and culture between Japan and Tennessee, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Motohiko Kato, Consul-General of Japan, for his exemplary service to the people of Tennessee, and extend to him our sincere gratitude for his dedication and professionalism as Consul-General of Japan in Nashville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.